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## DECEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

**West Virginia -- Commercial red meat production** during December 2005 totaled 700,000 pounds. This was 8 percent below December 2004 production and 20 percent below the November 2005 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** totaled 1.2 million pounds live weight, up 2 percent from December 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,200 head, the same as the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,000 pounds, was up 40 pounds from a year ago.

**Commercial calf slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**Commercial hog slaughter totaled** 169,000 pounds live weight, down 8 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 700 head, the same as the previous year. The average live weight, at 259 pounds, was down 9 pounds from the previous year.

**Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**United States -- Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 3.95 billion pounds in December, up 1 percent from the 3.93 billion pounds produced in December 2004.

**Beef production**, at 2.06 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.67 million head, down 1 percent from December 2004. The average live weight was up 13 pounds from the previous year, at 1,281 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 13.5 million pounds, 9 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 60,100 head, down 19 percent from December 2004. The average live weight was 36 pounds above last year, at 370 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.87 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.23 million head, slightly below December 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 16.5 million pounds, was down 3 percent from December 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 231,000 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 143 pounds, up 3 pounds from December a year ago.

**January to December 2005 commercial red meat production** was 45.7 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 7 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

**December 2004** contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

**December 2005** contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

## CATTLE INVENTORY

**West Virginia -- Cattle inventory** in West Virginia as of January 1, 2006 totaled 410,000 head, up 5,000 head or 1 percent from the January 1, 2005 inventory of 405,000 head. **All cows and heifers** that have calved totaled 217,000 head, up 7,000 head or 3 percent from January 1, 2005.

Comparing January 1, 2006 to January 1, 2005: **Beef cows** totaled 204,000 head, up 7,000 head; **milk cows** totaled 13,000, unchanged; **all heifers 500 pounds and over** totaled 67,000 head, down 3,000 head; **beef replacement heifers**, 38,000 head, down 7,000 head; **milk replacement heifers**, 4,000 head, unchanged; **other heifers**, at 25,000 head, up 4,000 head; **steers 500 pounds and over** at 38,000 head, up 3,000 head; **bulls 500 pounds and over** at 14,000 head, down 1,000 head; **calves less than 500 pounds** totaled 74,000, down 1,000 head. **Cattle on feed** totaled 9,000 head, up 2,000 head from 2005.

The 2005 **calf crop** totaled 195,000 head, up 5,000 head from the 2004 calf crop.

**United States -- All cattle and calves** in the United States as of January 1, 2006, totaled 97.1 million head, 2 percent above the 95.4 million on January 1, 2005. **All cows and heifers** that have calved, at 42.3 million, were up 1 percent from the 41.9 million on January 1, 2005.

Comparing January 1, 2006, to January 1, 2005: **Beef cows** totaled 33.3 million head, up 1 percent; **milk cows** totaled 9.06 million, were up 1 percent; **all heifers 500 pounds and over** totaled 20.0 million, up 2 percent; beef replacement heifers, 5.90 million, up 4 percent; milk replacement heifers, 4.28 million, up 4 percent; other heifers, 9.80 million, up slightly; **steers 500 pounds and over** totaled 16.9 million, up 3 percent; **bulls 500 pounds and over** totaled 2.26 million, up 2 percent; calves less than 500 pounds totaled 15.6 million, up 2 percent. **Cattle and calves on feed** totaled 14.1 million, up 3 percent.

The 2005 **calf crop** was estimated at 37.8 million head, up 1 percent from 2004. **Calves born** during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.4 million, up slightly from 2004.

### SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORY

**West Virginia -- All sheep and lamb inventory** in West Virginia as of January 1, 2006, was 32,000 head, up 1,000 head from January 1, 2005.

**Breeding sheep and lamb inventory** totaled 27,000 head on January 1, 2006, down 2,000 head from 2005. Ewes, one year and older, at 22,000 head, were down 1,000 head from 2005. Rams totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from 2005. Replacement lambs totaled 4,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2005.

**Market sheep and lambs** on January 1, 2006 totaled 5,000 head, up 3,000 head from January 1, 2005. Market lambs totaled 5,000 head, up 3,000 head from the previous year. Of these, 2,000 were under 65 pounds, 1,000 were 65 - 84 pounds, 1,500 were 85 - 105 pounds, and 500 were over 105 pounds.

The 2005 **lamb crop** totaled 28,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2004. The 2005 lambing rate was 122 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 2005, compared to 116 in 2004.

**Shorn wool production** during 2005 was 133,000 pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 23,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2004. The average price paid for wool sold in 2005 was \$0.48 per pound for a total value of \$64,000 dollars, up 10 percent from \$58,000 dollars in 2004.

**Meat and other goat** inventory on January 1, 2006 was estimated at 19,000 head. **Milk goat** inventory was estimated at 1,400 head. **Angora goat** inventory was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**United States -- All sheep and lamb inventory** in the United States on January 1, 2006, totaled 6.23 million head, up 2 percent from both 2005 and 2004. The inventory began increasing in 2005 and has shown two

consecutive year to year increases for the the first time since 1987 and 1988.

**Breeding sheep inventory** increased to 4.64 million head on January 1, 2006, up 2 percent from 4.53 million head on January 1, 2005. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.66 million head, were 2 percent above last year.

**Market sheep and lambs** on January 1, 2006, totaled 1.59 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2005. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total marketings. Twenty-seven percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 14 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 24 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, and 35 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 5 percent of total marketings.

The 2005 **lamb crop** of 4.13 million head, was up 1 percent from 2004. The 2005 lambing rate was 115 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2005, up 2 percent from 2004.

**Shorn wool production** in the United States during 2005 was 37.2 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.07 million head, down slightly from 2004. The average price paid for wool sold in 2005 was \$0.71 per pound for a total value of 26.3 million dollars, down 12 percent from 29.9 million dollars in 2004.

**All goat inventory** in the United States on January 1, 2006, totaled 2.83 million head, up 4 percent from 2005. **Breeding goat inventory** totaled 2.35 million head up 4 percent from 2005. **All market goats and kids** totaled 471,800 head, up 4 percent from a year ago. On January 1, 2006 **meat and all other goats** totaled 2.26 million head, up 5 percent from 2005. Milk goat inventory increased 1 percent to 288,000 head while angora goats were down 1 percent totaling 278,000 head. The 2005 **kid crop** totaled 1.84 million head for all goats, up 4 percent from 2004.

**Mohair production** in the United States during 2005 was 1.82 million pounds. Goats and kids clipped totaled 273,000 head. Average weight per clip was 6.7 pounds. Mohair price was \$2.78 per pound with a value of 5.1 million dollars.

### PRELIMINARY FRUIT PRODUCTION

**West Virginia -- Total apple** production for 2005 was 87.0 million pounds, 7 percent more than the 2004 estimate of 81.0 million pounds. Utilized production totaled 86.0 million pounds, an increase of 6 million from 2004. Bearing acres in the State were estimated at 5,000 acres, unchanged from 2004, with an average yield per acre of 17,400 pounds, 1,200 pounds more than 2004. The average price per pound for apples was 9.1 cents, the same as 2004. Value of utilized production totaled \$7.80 million, up 8 percent from 2004.

**Peach** production totaled 5,500 tons, down 8 percent or 500 tons from 2004. Utilized production in 2005 totaled 5,300 tons, down 9 percent or 500 tons from last year.

Bearing acres were estimated at 950 acres, down 20 acres from 2004, with an average yield of 5.79 tons per acre, a decrease of 0.40 tons. The price received per ton was estimated at 724 dollars, an increase of 246 dollars from 2004. Value of utilized production totaled \$3.84 million - a 38 percent increase from 2004.

**United States** -- Total **apple** production in the U.S. during 2005 was estimated at 9.87 billion pounds, 6 percent less than 2004. Of the total production, 9.78 billion pounds were utilized, down 6 percent from the 2004 level. Bearing acres were estimated at 381,160 acres, down 4,400 acres from 2004, with an average yield per acre of 25,900 pounds, 1,200 pounds less than 2004. Growers received an average of 18.3 cents per pound, an increase of 2.4 cents from 2004. Value of utilized production totaled \$1.79 billion, an increase of 8 percent from 2004.

The U.S. total **peach** production (including California Clingstone) in 2005 was estimated at 1.18 million tons, down 10 percent from 2004. Of this production, 1.14 million tons were utilized, also down 7 percent from the previous year. Bearing acres were estimated at 140,360 acres, down 5,810 acres from 2004, with an average yield of 8.43 tons per acre, a decrease of 0.51 tons. The average price received per ton for peaches was 446 dollars per ton, up 71 dollars from 2004. Value of utilized production totaled \$509.7 million, up 10 percent from 2004.

#### CROP VALUES

**West Virginia** -- **Corn for grain** value of production totaled \$6.1 million in 2005, a 27 percent decrease from 2004. The marketing year average price received per bushel for corn was \$2.00, down 20 cents from 2004.

**Tobacco** value of production totaled \$1.05 million, down 68 percent from 2004. The average price received per pound for tobacco was \$1.55, down 42 cents from 2004.

The value of **winter wheat** production in 2005 was \$915 thousand, a 16 percent increase from the 2004 crop. Growers received an average of \$3.05 per bushel for the 2005 crop, up 1 cent from 2004.

**Soybeans** value of production totaled \$3.2 million, a 27 percent decrease from 2004. The average price received per bushel for soybeans was \$5.45. This was up 11 cents from the 2004 average price.

The value of **all hay** production totaled \$65.5 million in 2005, slightly more than 2004. The average price received per ton was \$61.00, 50 cents less than the 2004 average price.

The value of **alfalfa hay** production totaled \$10.1 million in 2005, 7 percent less than 2004. The average price received per ton was \$103.00, \$3.00 more than the 2004 average price.

The value of all **other hay** production totaled \$55.4 million in 2005, 2 percent more than 2004. The average

price received per ton was \$57.00, the same as the 2004 average price.

The 2005 **total value of production of principal crops** (including fruits) was \$88.5 million, down 4 percent from the 2004 value of \$92.1 million, and down 2 percent from the 2003 value of \$90.7 million.

#### United States Value And Marketing Year Average Price With 2004 Comparisons

- Corn for grain value of production - \$21.04 billion, down 14 percent; \$1.90 per bushel, down 16 cents.
- Tobacco value of production - \$1.05 billion, down 40 percent; \$1.647 per pound, down 34 cents.
- Winter wheat value of production - \$4.92 billion, down slightly; \$3.30 per bushel, down 2 cents.
- Soybeans value of production - \$16.93 billion, down 5 percent; \$5.50 per bushel, down 24 cents.
- All hay value of production - \$12.49 billion, up 2 percent; \$98.00 per ton, up \$6.00.
- Alfalfa hay value of production - \$7.32 billion, up 5 percent; \$106.00 per ton, up \$7.40.
- Other hay value of production - \$5.17 billion, down 1 percent; \$76.00 per ton, up \$1.40.
- All crops (including fruits, nuts and vegetables) value of production - \$76.78 billion, down 5 percent.

#### FARM NUMBERS, LAND IN FARMS, AND LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS

**West Virginia** -- The **number of farms** in West Virginia totaled 20,800 in 2005. The total land in farms was 3.6 million acres. The average farm size was 173 acres. These numbers were unchanged from the previous 4 years.

The West Virginia number of farms in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 economic sales class totaled 17,200, the same as 2004. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 2.05 million acres, a decrease of 20,000 acres from 2004.

The **number of operations with cattle and calves** totaled 12,500 operations, unchanged from 2004. Beef cow operations totaled 10,900 operations, unchanged from 2004. Milk cow operations totaled 470 operations, down 2 percent, or 10 farms, from 2004.

The **number of operations with hogs and pigs** totaled 800 operations, unchanged from 2004.

The **number of operations with sheep and lambs** totaled 1,000 operations, down 9 percent, or 100 farms from 2004.

**United States** -- The **number of farms** in the United States in 2005 is estimated at 2.1 million, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2004. Total land in farms, at 933.4 million acres, decreased 2.9 million acres, or 0.3 percent, from 2004. The average farm size was 444 acres during 2005, an increase of one acre from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms reflects a continuing consolidation in farming operations and diversion of agricultural land to nonagricultural uses.

Compared to 2004, the number of farms in 2005 declined in 27 states, remained unchanged in 21 states and increased in two states, Texas (1,000 farms) and Alaska (20 farms). The largest decline in number of farms occurred in North Carolina (losing 2,000 farms) followed by Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee (each losing 1,000 farms) and Florida, Iowa, and Ohio (each losing 700 farms).

The **number of operations with cattle** totaled 982,510 during 2005, down 1 percent from 2004 and 3 percent below 2003. Beef cow operations in 2005 were down 1 percent from 2004 and 3 percent below 2003. Milk cow operations were 4 percent below last year and 9 percent below two years ago. Texas had the largest number of operations with all cattle with 150,000 operations and also had the largest number of operations with beef cattle with 131,000 operations. Wisconsin had the largest number of milk cow operations with 15,300 operations.

The **number of operations with hogs** totaled 67,330 during 2005, down 3 percent from 2004 and 9 percent from 2003. Places with 2,000 or more head accounted for 79 percent of the inventory. Iowa had the largest number of hog operations with 8,900 operations.

The **number of operations with sheep** totaled 68,280 during 2005, up 1 percent from both 2004 and 2003. Of all sheep operations that include breeding sheep, 90.8 percent were comprised of 1-99 head, 7.6 percent had 100-499 head, and the remaining 1.6 percent were operations with 500 head or more. Operations with 1-99 head account for 28.7 percent of the inventory, 100-499 head account for 24.0 percent of the inventory, and 500+ head account for 47.3 percent of the inventory. Texas had the largest number of sheep operations with 6,900 operations.

### MARCH AG SURVEY ANNOUNCEMENT

The National Agricultural Statistics Service will be conducting the March Agricultural Survey from February 27<sup>th</sup> – March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Survey data are collected and used to set estimates of farmers' planting intentions for the 2006 crop year. Farmers who are selected to participate are mailed a questionnaire or a letter, if they are to be called to complete the survey over the phone. The West Virginia Statistics Office depends on the voluntary cooperation of farmers and all data will remain confidential. We thank you in advance for your participation.

Next issue:

January Red Meat Production  
Annual Livestock Slaughter  
Cattle On Feed  
2005 Egg Production  
Commercial Trout Production  
Honey Production

GUS R. DOUGLASS, COMMISSIONER  
DALE R. KING, DIRECTOR

United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
West Virginia Department of Agriculture  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305